

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC**

FSIS DIRECTIVE	5420.5, Revision 1	1/26/2005
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**HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT CONDITION RESPONSE -
INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

I. PURPOSE

This directive details the procedures that the Food Safety and Inspection Service's Office of Food Security and Emergency Preparedness (FSIS, OFSEP) personnel will follow in the event that a Threat Condition Elevated (Yellow), High (Orange) or Severe (Red) is declared by the Department of Homeland Security. In such an event, OFSEP personnel are to follow the instructions in this directive for the duration of the declared heightened Threat Condition.

II. CANCELLATION

FSIS Directive 5420.5, dated 6/25/04

III. REASON FOR REISSUANCE

This directive is reissued in its entirety to provide clarification of responsibilities regarding procedures to follow in the event of a Threat Condition Elevated (Yellow).

IV. REFERENCES

FSIS Directive 5420.1, Rev. 1, Homeland Security Threat Condition Response – Food Security Verification Procedures

V. BACKGROUND

In 2002, the White House Office of Homeland Security established a Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) based on color to provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people. A declaration of a Threat

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Condition Yellow by the Department of Homeland Security indicates that there is an elevated risk of terrorist attacks. A declaration of a Threat Condition Orange by the Department of Homeland Security indicates that there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. A declaration of Threat Condition Red reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. While the threat declaration may or may not involve the nation's food supply, it is imperative that such declarations be communicated effectively and expeditiously to all program areas within FSIS so that appropriate actions can be taken to respond to the threats and ensure the security of meat, poultry, and egg products.

VI. NOTIFICATION

A. In the event of a declaration of any Threat Condition:

- Elevated (Yellow), when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks
- High (Orange), when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks, or
- Severe (Red) which reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks,

by the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of Food Security and Emergency Preparedness (OFSEP) will inform the FSIS Administrator and senior executive leadership of all FSIS program areas. The Office of the Administrator will issue an e-mail letter to all employees notifying them of the heightened threat condition.

VII. SPECIFIC THREAT CONDITION ACTIVITIES

OFSEP will assume the following responsibilities, in the event of a declaration of:

A. Threat Condition Elevated (Yellow), High (Orange) or Severe (Red) with no specific threat to the food and agriculture sector.

1. Verify the change in the threat condition with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of Homeland Security (OHS).
2. Inform the FSIS Administrator of the change in threat condition.
3. Inform the senior executive leadership of all FSIS program areas of the change in threat condition.
4. Prepare e-mail message to all employees from the Office of the Administrator and forward to USDA OHS for clearance.
5. Implement procedures as per established protocols for the timely handling of sensitive, classified information between the USDA's Office of Homeland Security and FSIS from a variety of sources, including the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

6. Coordinate with USDA's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to ensure coordinated exchange of information among related Federal food and agricultural agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense.

7. Implement procedures as per established protocols to ensure a coordinated exchange of information with USDA's Office of Inspector General and Continuity of Operations (COOP) representatives.

8. Conduct regular briefings between OFSEP and all program areas regarding food security monitoring and verification activities.

9. Place the FSIS Emergency Management Committee (EMC) on stand-by status.

10. Implement appropriate notification procedures when threat condition is lowered.

B. Threat Condition High (Orange) or Severe (Red) with a specific threat to the food and agricultural sector.

OFSEP, in addition to the responsibilities referred to under A above, will activate the EMC.

Direct all questions related to this directive through supervisory channels.

/s/ Philip S. Derfler

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